

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A cutter for cutting out a member from a continuous sheet base material, comprising:

conveying means for conveying a continuous sheet base material along a continuing direction of the continuous sheet base material;

cutting means, having a cutting blade and a driving mechanism for bringing said cutting blade into or from substantially a center in a width direction of the conveyed base material, for cutting out the member by pressing said cutting blade against the base material;

member discharging means for discharging the cut-out member;

~~dividing means for dividing a base material remainder, which is a remainder of the base material after the member is cut out, into two parts along the continuing direction of the base material; and~~

base material remainder discharging means for discharging the divided base material remainders in directions away from each other and in a thickness direction of the member at a predetermined angle to the discharging direction of the cut-out member.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein said base material remainder discharging means discharges the base material remainder in substantially the [[.]] same direction as the discharging direction of the member viewed from a width direction of the member.

4. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein tensile strength of the base material remainder in the continuing direction is higher than that of the member in the continuing direction.

5. (Withdrawn) The cutter according to claim 4, wherein the base material is embossed and an embossing rate of the base material remainder is higher than that of the member.

6. (Withdrawn) The cutter according to claim 5, wherein said embossing is uniformly applied in the continuing direction of the base material.

7. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein said dividing means divides the base material remainder into two parts by said cutting blade.

8. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein said dividing means comprises cutting-plane-line-forming means which enables to divide the base material remainder into two parts by forming a cutting plane line on the base material remainder along the continuing direction thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) The cutter according to claim 8, wherein said cutting plane line is a slit.

10. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein said driving mechanism comprises a roller and a rotating mechanism for rotating said roller, and said cutting blade is a blade provided on said roller; and

wherein said rotating mechanism rotates said roller so that said blade presses against the base material, thereby cutting out the member from the base material.

11. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein said member is an absorbent body.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A cutting method for cutting out a member by pressing a cutting blade against a continuous sheet base material, comprising the step of:

conveying the base material along a continuing direction;

cutting out the member by pressing said cutting blade against the base material;

discharging the cut-out member;

dividing a base material remainder, which is a remainder of the base material after the member is cut out, into two parts along the continuing direction of the base material; and

discharging the divided base material remainders in the directions away from each other.

14. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 13, wherein, in said discharging step, the base material remainder is discharged in a thickness direction of the member at a predetermined angle to the discharging direction of the member.

15. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 13, wherein, in said discharging step, the base material remainder is discharged in substantially the same direction as the discharging direction of the member viewed from a width direction of the member.

16. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 13, wherein the base material is embossed beforehand so as to increase an embossing rate of the base material remainder higher than that of the member.

17. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 16, wherein said embossing is uniformly applied on the base material in the continuing direction thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 13, wherein, in said cutting step, the base material remainder is divided into two by said cutting blade.

19. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 13, wherein, in said cutting step, the base material remainder is divided into two by forming a slit on the base material remainder along the continuing direction.

20. (Withdrawn) The cutting method according to claim 13, wherein, in said cutting step, said cutting blade is provided on a roller and said cutting blade is pressed against the base material by rotating said roller so as to cut out a member from the base material.

21. (Canceled)